

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over a publication entitled "Incremental Placement for Layout-Driven Optimizations on FPGAs" ("Singh").

Applicants respectfully submit that all the authors of Singh are listed as inventors in the present application and that the present application was filed less than a year after the publication of Singh. Applicants submit that Singh is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

The inventors of the present application who are the authors of Singh submit herewith declarations under 35 CFR 1.132 stating that to the extent that the described subject matter in Singh relates to the claimed invention in the present application, they, Stephen D. Brown and Deshanand P. Singh, are co-inventors of the described subject matter.

Applicants also submit herewith a request to correct inventorship.

If there are any issues that can be resolved through a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (217) 377-2500.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1624.

Respectfully submitted,

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